



**The Holy Prophet Elisseus (Elisha)
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on June 14.**

The Prophet Elisseus, the son of Saphat, was from the town of Abel-me-oul and had been a husbandman. In the year 908 B.C., at God's command, the Prophet Elias anointed him to be Prophet in his stead. This happened while Elisseus was plowing his land, having twelve oxen under yoke. Straightway, Elisseus slew the oxen and cooked them using the wooden plough and the other instruments of husbandry as firewood; then he gave the oxen as food to the people. Bidding farewell to his parents, he followed Elias and served him until the later was taken up as it were into Heaven (see July 20). When Elisseus received his teacher's mantle and the grace of his prophetic spirit twofold, he demonstrated whose disciple he was through the miracles he wrought and through all that is related of him in the Fourth Book of Kings. He departed full of days and was buried in Samaria about the year 839 B.C. But even after his death God glorified him; for after the passage of a year, when some Israelites were carrying a dead man for burial and suddenly saw a band of Moabites, they cast the dead man on the grave of the Prophet. No sooner had the dead man touched the Prophet's bones, than he came to life and stood on his feet (IV Kings 13:20-21). Mentioning this, Jesus the Son of Sirach says, "He did wonders in his life, and at his death his works were marvellous" (Ecclus. 48:14). It is because of such marvels that the faithful have reverence for the relics of the Saints (see also Jan. 16). His name means "God is saviour."

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SELECTED HYMNS FROM
THE MENAION

VESPERS

For Lord, I have cried, we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera:

Of the Prophet. Plagal of Fourth Tone. O strange wonder

REJOICE, Elisseus supremely wise; * for after cleansing thy mind * of the carnal desires and lusts, * thou within thee didst receive * God the Spirit's clear-shining beams, * which thou didst pass on to all, O glorious one, * and didst appear wholly like unto the light. * Hence, thou art gone to dwell * in the never-setting light that is on high, * ever praying for us all, who praise and honour thee.

WHEN the great Elias, the man of zeal, * left thee behind shining bright * with a double share of his grace, * he was shown to be in truth * an aetherial charioteer. * And thou, O blest Elisseus great of fame, * didst imitate him and check by grace divine * Jordan's accustomed flow, * and with great exceeding joy didst pass therethrough, * splendidly adorned with light and magnifying Christ.

THOU dost grant the faithful Shummanite * the child that prayer had bestowed; * though he died, thou didst raise him up, * as a Prophet filled with God * and made wondrous most sacredly. * Again, with salt, thou didst transform the barren waters to godly fruitfulness. * Thou workest miracles * without end by the Almighty Spirit's grace. * For this cause, O blessed Prophet, we now sing thy praise.

Glory. *Plagal of Second tone*

OELISSEUS, thou prophet and herald of Christ, at no time art thou ever separated from the throne of majesty, yet thou art ever present at the side of every one in sickness; while ministering in the highest, thou dost bless the whole world and art everywhere glorified. Ask thou forgiveness for our souls.



DISMISSAL HYMN OF THE PROPHET

Fourth Tone. Be quick to anticipate

THE incarnate Angel, and the Prophet's summit and boast, * the second forerunner of the coming of Christ our God, Elias, the glorious, * from above sent down his grace upon Elisseus; * he doth cast out sickness and doth also cleanse lepers; * and unto all that honour him, he poureth forth streams of cures.

KONTAKION OF THE PROPHET.

Second Tone. Thou soughtest the heights

A PROPHET of God * didst thou become when worthily * thou hadst been vouchsafed * a double portion of God's grace * as Elias' true companion, O Elisseus, divinely-blest; * and with him, thou unceasingly * entreat Christ God in behalf of us all.

ANOTHER KONTAKION OF THE PROPHET

Plagal of Fourth Tone. To thee, the Champion Leader

HAVING received a double portion of the Spirit's grace, * thou didst become a wondrous Prophet known throughout the earth, * ever rescuing from dangers all them that hymn thee; * and thou grantest thy rich grace of wondrous miracles * unto those who hasten to thee with fervent faith * and cry out to thee: * Rejoice, O Prophet most marvellous.

MATINS

OIKOS

WHEN the Sun of righteousness shone upon thine enlightened soul, O Elisseus, HE chased out of it all the murky mist of sin, and showed thee to be a very radiant Prophet of God; hence we cry out thus:

Rejoice, thou who didst prefer nothing above God; rejoice thou who didst slaughter the yokes of oxen.

Rejoice, thou who forsookest all things in life; rejoice, thou who wast rich with inviolable riches.

Rejoice, for thou didst follow after God, Who called thee; rejoice, for now thou hast received the gifts from Him.

Rejoice, for thou didst receive the mantle of Elias; rejoice, thou who for many souls art the defender.

Rejoice, thou who abodest dry while crossing the waters; rejoice, thou who for many souls art the defender.

Rejoice, thou who hast learned hidden knowledge; rejoice, thou who, though dead, watchest over us as living.

Rejoice, O Prophet most marvellous.

SYNAXARION

✠ On the fourteenth of this month we commemorate the holy Prophet Elias.

Verses

It was horses that took Elias up unto the heavens,
But noetic hosts, not horses, took the twofold Elias.

On the fourteenth Elisseus took possession of his lot.

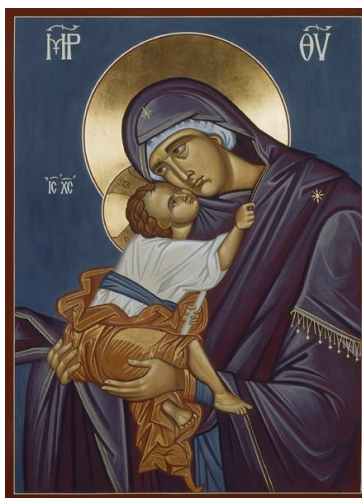
✠ On this day the holy Righteous Martyrs Anastasius the Priestmonk, Felix the Monk, and Digna the Consecrated Virgin were beheaded in Cordova by the Moors in the year 853.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us.
Amen.

EXAPOSTILIARA

Of the Prophet. Third Tone. Thou Who as God adornest

THOU who wast once a ploughman * wast made a Prophet of the Lord; * and with Elias' mantle, * his spirit twofold didst thou gain. * Wherefore, O great Elisseus, * with him we honour and praise thee.



OUR ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑ ΕΛΕΟΥΣΑ